

DETAILED ACTION

The Remarks filed by Applicant on June 26, 2009 has been acknowledged.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Consequently, all rejections have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 and 9-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The DeBolt reference submitted by Applicant in the IDS shows a microplate indexing device bearing the name Speedview®. Speedview® comprises a base platform designed to be attached to the stage of a microscope, and an indexing platform adapted to receive a microplate thereon. Each platform comprises a view-through portion aligned with one another to enable viewing of the samples in the wells of the microplate by using a microscope. The indexing platform further comprises a pair of parallel rails that enable the microplate to slide in a single axis, and a column of indexing holes formed in each side of the view-through portion that interacts with a pair of indexing pins provided on the base platform to enable the indexing platform to move in a sequential manner in a direction that is transverse to the direction enabled by the rails. However, the device disclosed by DeBolt does not comprise the claimed guide groove. Although the device disclosed by DeBolt comprises a pair of indexing means like the claimed invention, the indexing means disclosed by DeBolt are in the form of holes, not a groove.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL S. HYUN whose telephone number is (571)272-8559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Paul S Hyun/
Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Jill Warden/